



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Jerrold Franklin *et al.*

Application No. 10/068,154

Filed: February 6, 2002

For: Compliant Contacts for Fuel Cell Use

Date: February 6, 2004

Group Art Unit: 1745

Examiner: Gregg Cantelmo

Attorney Ref. No.: 109.06

Response to Office with Amendments

Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

In response to the office action dated October 1, 2003, the applicants offer the following remarks and amendments.

Remarks

The examiner had previously suggested that the claims could be allowed if they expressly excluded the possibility that the compliant contacts were attached to the Membrane Electrode Assembly (MEA). See 10/1/03 office action at 3 (stating that previous claim did not "exclude the electrical contacts attached to the MEA").

The applicants have now amended the claims to conform to the examiner's suggestion, and the claims are thus ready for allowance. More particularly, the applicants have now added the express limitation to all the claims that the compliant contact must not be "permanently attached" to the adjacent MEA. For instance, the relevant portion of claim 1 now reads:

independently-acting compliant electrical contacts attached to said bipolar separator plate, for pressing against but not permanently attaching to a membrane electrode assembly of an adjacent fuel cell assembly.